

# **Montana's Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
2005**

The mission of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is to provide for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks, and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations. To carry out its mission, FWP strives to provide and support fiscally responsible programs that conserve, enhance, and protect Montana's 1) aquatic ecotypes, habitats, and species; 2) terrestrial ecotypes, habitats, and species; and 3) important cultural and recreational resources.

This document should be cited as *Montana's Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy*. 2005. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620.

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## **Index of Acronyms**

<b>AFA</b>	Application for Federal Assistance
<b>BLM</b>	Bureau of Land Management
<b>BOR</b>	Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
<b>CARA</b>	Conservation and Reinvestment Act
<b>CFWCS</b>	Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy
<b>CRP</b>	Conservation Reserve Program
<b>CPUE</b>	Catch Per Unit Effort
<b>D-J</b>	Dingell-Johnson (Act)
<b>DEQ</b>	Department of Environmental Quality
<b>DNRC</b>	Department of Natural Resources
<b>ESA</b>	Endangered Species Act of 1973
<b>FWP</b>	(Montana) Fish, Wildlife & Parks
<b>GAP 50</b>	Geospatial Analysis Program (50 scale)
<b>GYE</b>	Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
<b>HUC</b>	Hydrologic Unit Code
<b>IAFWA</b>	International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
<b>LWCF</b>	Land and Water Conservation Fund
<b>LIP</b>	Land Incentives Program
<b>MDOT</b>	Montana Department of Transportation
<b>MFWP</b>	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
<b>MNHP</b>	Natural Heritage Program
<b>NPS</b>	National Park Service
<b>NRCS</b>	Natural Resource Conservation Service
<b>NWR</b>	National Wildlife Refuge
<b>PIF</b>	Partners in Flight
<b>PILT</b>	Payment in Lieu of Taxes
<b>POD</b>	Point Observation Database
<b>P-R</b>	Pittman-Roberts (Act)
<b>RNA</b>	Research Natural Area
<b>SOC</b>	Species of Concern
<b>SWG</b>	State Wildlife Grants
<b>TNC</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>TWS</b>	The Wildlife Society
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>USFS</b>	United States Forest Service
<b>USFWS</b>	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>USGS</b>	United States Geological Survey
<b>WCRP</b>	Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program

## FOREWORD

Montana, like other states, is rich in fish and wildlife but unfortunately not in the funds needed to address all species successfully.

Responding to the need for funding, Congress established the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program in 2001. The funds support conservation projects for species historically overlooked because money's been short. To ensure that funds are used efficiently and effectively, Congress charged each state to develop a comprehensive assessment of its fish and wildlife and the places they inhabit.

This is Montana's contribution to the nationwide effort to take a broad look at America's fish and wildlife. It is our hope that this Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CFWCS) will bring Montana a step closer to securing long-term federal funding needed to conserve and manage hundreds of species that fall in the conservation gap between the state's major game animals and those that are threatened or endangered.

This document not only identifies Montana's critical wildlife habitats and the animals that need special attention, it aims to keep fish and wildlife management decisions in the hands of Montana citizens by keeping species from becoming threatened or endangered.

FWP hopes this comprehensive assessment will enable Montana to build on past successes and broaden the agency's ability to fulfill its mission to conserve all species.

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